

SAINT IVES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1970

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**LIST OF PARISHES  
IN THE  
COUNCIL'S AREA**

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Bluntisham

Broughton

Bury

Colne

Earith

Fenstanton

Hemingford Abbots

Hemingford Grey

Hilton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Houghton and Wyton

Oldhurst

Pidley-cum-Fenton

Somersham

Warboys

Wistow

Woodhurst

SHIRLEY W. TAYLOR

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# Saint Ives Rural District Council

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## *Chairman of the Council:*

Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.

## *Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

Cmdr. C. F. Alington

## *Members of the Council:*

Mrs. A. R. Buck	J. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
W. A. K. Dear, Esq.	M. F. Newman, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	H. E. Parren, Esq., C.C.
P. G. M. Dickinson, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	H. Stott, Esq.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.	H. L. Warren, Esq.
R. G. Fleming, Esq.	Revd. G. E. Wood
J. W. Harris, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

### *Chairman:*

D. H. Burch, Esq.

### *Vice-Chairman:*

S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.

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### *Members:*

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
W. A. K. Dear, Esq.	H. Stott, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	H. L. Warren, Esq.
R. G. Fleming, Esq.	Revd. G. E. Wood
J. W. Harris, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

### *Chief Public Health Inspector:*

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

### *Additional Public Health Inspectors:*

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerty, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

### *Administrative Assistant:*

Mrs. J. E. Zavala



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. IVES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970**

To:- The Chairman and Members of the  
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1970.

**Vital Statistics**

**Population** The estimated mid-year population is given as 17,890 which is 90 less than the figure for last year. This is the second time recently that a fall in population has been estimated by the Registrar General and it is again difficult to understand why this is so when there has been considerable development in the District during the year in question.

**Birth Rate** 342 live births were credited to the District during the year — 12 more than in 1969 — giving a corrected birth rate of 18.5 per 1,000 population. This is fractionally higher than last year's rate and can be partially explained by the lower population figure supplied. The birth rate is in fact 2.5 per 1,000 population higher than the figure for England and Wales as a whole. One pleasing feature to note is that there were 5 fewer illegitimate births this year as compared with 1969, a fact which is in keeping with the national trend.

**Deaths** There were 140 deaths of residents of this District this year — 4 fewer than in 1969 — giving a corrected death rate of 9.4. This rate is fractionally lower than last year's figure and well below the national average of 11.7.

19% of deaths were due to malignant disease and 53% were caused by diseases of the cardio-vascular system.

**Infant Mortality** 5 infants died during the year before reaching the age of 12 months. This is three more than last year and gives an infant mortality rate of 15 per 1,000 live births as compared with 18 per 1,000 of the Country as a whole.

**Infectious Disease** The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was higher this year as compared with 1969, there being 73 notifications received during the 12 months. 68 of these were in respect of measles.

### **Social Conditions**

I have omitted comment on this subject, as it is covered in great detail in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

**Hospital Facilities** Negotiations are still going on between the various Local Authorities concerned and the Regional Hospital Board as to the future programme for the provision of a new hospital in Huntingdon. It is hoped that more definite confirmation will be forthcoming at a fairly early date.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the Department's staff for their hard work and steady support throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**JAMES CALDWELL.**

# ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1970

Estimated mid-year home population . . . 17,890

<b>Live Births</b>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	178	153	331
Illegitimate	5	6	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	183	159	342
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population . . . . . 19.1

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and factor (.97) . . . . . 18.5

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales) . . . 16.0

## Still Births

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births . . . . . 9

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England and Wales) . . . 13

**Deaths** 71 69 140

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population . . . . . 7.8

Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1.20) . . . . . 9.4

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales) . . . 11.7

## Infant Mortality —

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	3	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	15
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	18

**Table classifying deaths under age groups**

<b>Ages</b>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 4 weeks	2	2	4
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	1	1
1 and under 4 years	2	—	2
5 and under 14 years	1	—	1
15 and under 24 years	2	1	3
25 and under 34 years	3	2	5
35 and under 44 years	2	1	3
45 and under 54 years	2	2	4
55 and under 64 years	8	5	13
65 and under 74 years	19	17	36
75 and over	30	38	68
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	71	69	140
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### **ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT**

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the district over the past 5 years:-

#### **Births**

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Population	17,250	17,830	17,640	17,980	17,890
Total live births	266	331	303	330	342
Crude birth rate	15.4	18.56	17.2	18.4	19.1
Area comparability factor	.96	.97	.97	.97	.97
Corrected birth rate	14.8	17.9	16.7	17.8	18.5
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17.7	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0

## Deaths

Total deaths	147	131	152	144	140
Crude death rate	8.5	7.3	8.6	8.0	7.8
Area comparability factor	1.23	1.22	1.2	1.22	1.20
Corrected death rate	10.5	8.9	10.4	9.8	9.4
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.7	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7

## Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1970

	<i>Total cases notified</i>				
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	.	.	.	.	2
Whooping Cough . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1
Diphtheria . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Measles . . . . .	.	.	.	.	68
Typhoid Fever . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Paratyphoid Fever . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Infective Hepatitis . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1
Food Poisoning . . . . .	.	.	.	.	1
Dysentery . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Tuberculosis . . . . .	.	.	.	.	—
Total					73

## ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT Causes of Death

<i>List No.</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	—
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	—
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	—
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	—
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	—
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	3

B20	Benign and		
	Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
B46(5)	Other Diseases of		
	Nervous System	1	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	13
B29	Others Forms of Heart Disease	3	4
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	7	16
B46(6)	Other Diseases of		
	Circulatory System	5	6
B31	Influenza	2	1
B32	Pneumonia	3	5
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	—
B34	Peptic Ulcer	—	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction		
	and Hernia	—	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
B46(9)	Other Diseases,		
	Genito-Urinary System	1	1
B43	Birth Injury,		
	Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1
B44	Other Causes of		
	Perinatal Mortality	1	1
B45	Symptoms and		
	Ill Defined Conditions	—	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
BE48	All Other Accidents	3	2
BE49	Suicide and		
	Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total All Causes	71	69
		<hr/>	<hr/>



## ST. IVES RURAL DISTRICT

### Tuberculosis

Total number of persons on Register at  
31st December, 1970 . 22

Pulmonary . 19                      Non-Pulmonary . 3

Age Periods	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 . .	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service,  
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.  
(Tel: Cambridge 55526)

Public Analyst,  
(S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),  
Tenison Road, Cambridge.  
(Tel: Cambridge 2097)



**(b) Ambulance Service**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 3348)

**(c) Home Nursing**

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the District.

**(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres**

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council:-

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Clinic	Patients seen	Where held	When held
Infant Welfare	(0-5 years)	Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
		1st Monday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton.
		3rd Monday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Youth Centre, Somersham.
		1st Wednesday in month. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
		Alternate Thursdays. 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	R.A.F. Station, Wyton.
Dental	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
	(0 - 5 years) Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

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(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Disease	All cases	Tuesday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Thursday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Monday from 5.00 p.m. Wednesday from 5.30 p.m.	Clinic 5, Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females	Tuesday from 10.30 a.m. Thursday from 4.30 p.m.	

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services**

**Fever** Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

**General Hospital Services** were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon, and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

**(f) Family Planning Clinics**

**Huntingdon**

Held at the Child Health Centre,  
Nursery Road, Huntingdon.  
Every Wednesday.

7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

*(To make an appointment  
call at the Clinic or  
telephone Huntingdon 3398  
after 7.00 p.m.*

*Wednesday evenings ONLY)*

**St. Ives**

Held at the Child Health Centre,  
Ramsey Road, St. Ives.

Every Monday.

9.30 – 11.00 a.m.

*(To make an appointment  
call at the Clinic or  
telephone St. Ives 2622  
during sessions ONLY)*

**St. Neots**

Held at the Child Health Centre,  
Almond Road, St. Neots.

Tuesday evenings.

7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

1st and 3rd Thursday mornings.  
9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

*(To make an appointment  
telephone St. Neots 2261  
during session times ONLY)*



**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Madam Chairman, Mrs. Buck and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty-third Annual Report on the work undertaken by the Department in 1970.

With the Reorganisation of Local Government now reasonably certain in 1974, it is the policy of the Council to complete the Main Drainage Schemes in every village before the present Council becomes a part of a much larger District.

Drainage schemes are closely linked with the Development of the District and the rate of such development continues to increase in all the larger \* villages, such as Broughton and Woodhurst are stagnating due to the lack of flexibility in the County Planning Authority's Rural Policy which restricts development in such villages to bona fide local residents. The reasoning and facts behind this Policy, produced in 1961 - 62 are now rather archaic and the Planning Authority is being pressed to carry out such a review, now long overdue, as a matter of urgency.

The publicity attending the vast and complex problem of Pollution has had a marked effect on the interest shown both by the General Public and the appropriate State Departments in Environmental Hygiene; there has been no restriction on capital expenditure on the Council's schemes designed to improve water supplies, main drainage, new Housing and Improvements to Sub Standard Houses which, in the past, has tended to slow down the Council's progressive policies.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

\* Insert

villages. However concern has been expressed that small villages....



# ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

## WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened to zero degrees and then de-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following villages now have main drainage schemes:-

Somersham	Completed 1957. Design Flow 60,000 gallons per day.
Hemingford Abbots Hemingford Grey Houghton Wyton	Completed 1963. Design Flow 122,000 gallons per day.
Holywell-cum- Needingworth	Completed 1966. Design Flow 50,000 gallons per day.
Bury	Completed 1968. Design Flow 42,000 gallons per day. Treatment at Ramsey U.D.C. Disposal Works.
Warboys and Oldhurst	Operational 1970. Design Flow 140,000 gallons per day.

### **Warboys and Oldhurst**

Although this scheme was not completed by the end of the year, the new foul sewers and the new Disposal Works at Oldhurst were commissioned and the bulk of the properties to be served had been reconnected to the new system.

There were a large number of 'teething troubles'; many delays in the completion of comparatively minor items of machinery and equipment; and a complete absence of sludge treatment due to the failure of the manufacturers to install the 3 - Disc Filter Plant which will eventually be used for dewatering the sewage sludge.

The Orbital pump designed to recirculate, filtrate and wash out water was incapable of lifting this effluent to the Sedimentation Tanks for recirculation through the works and has now been replaced by a Seeburg Pump.

Due to these circumstances the resources of the Department have been stretched to the limit to dispose of the untreated sludge and considerable costs incurred in disposing of it within the district. It is to be hoped that the outstanding difficulties will be overcome before 1972.



## **Fenstanton and Hilton**

The scheme for these two villages was finally approved by the Ministry on 1st October, 1970, at an estimated total cost of approximately £820,000. The main contractors commenced work on 1st January, 1971, the completion date being 30th September, 1972.

In accordance with the usual practice of the Council before the commencement of such schemes in the villages, Public Meetings were held in the two parishes to acquaint the householders generally of the inconvenience likely to be encountered consequent on the construction of the sewers, such as temporary road closures, restricted accesses to garages and the provision of new drainage systems to the properties on the line of sewer.

The scheme comprises the construction of some 11 miles of asbestos cement sewers varying from 6" to 12" in diameter and 4 pumping stations, 3 of which are at Fenstanton and 1 at Hilton.

All the sewage will be pumped to the existing Disposal Works at Hemingford Abbots which will be enlarged to treat the extra volume. The Design capacity of the Disposal Works being increased from 121,000 gallons per day to 346,000 gallons per day.

The Great Ouse River Board gave its consent to the discharge of the final effluent to the adjacent Awarded Watercourse provided the effluent standard was such that it did not contain more than 15 parts per million of suspended solids and the biochemical oxygen demand did not exceed 15 parts per million.

## **Broughton, Bluntisham, Colne and Earith**

The scheme for this village was excluded from the Warboys and Oldhurst scheme, but subsequently permission to proceed was obtained midway through the year. As the scheme for Bluntisham, Colne and Earith had by then reached the stage when it was ready to go to Tender, it was decided to include this in the contract for these latter villages.

However, tenders for the scheme were not returnable before the end of the year, but loan sanction was obtained from the Ministry in 1971.

## **Pidley, Wistow and Woodhurst**

The Council's Consulting Engineers were proceeding during the year with design work on a combined scheme for these three parishes to be included in one contract. The scheme will be confined to the construction of sewers and pumping stations, as all the effluent will be pumped to the treatment works at Oldhurst, which was reconstructed and enlarged as part of the Warboys scheme to deal with the additional flows from these three villages. Subject to the approval of the Ministry, it is anticipated that the scheme should commence in 1972.

## **General**

Subject to any restrictions that may be reimposed by the Ministry on capital expenditure on Main Drainage Schemes, it is probable that every village in the District will have a complete system of foul drainage by 1974.

Originally, the main drainage proposals, formulated in 1948, envisaged 13 separate Disposal Works for the 17 Parishes, but rethinking by the Department in the past few years has resulted in a fundamental and realistic revision of this original concept. By grouping adjoining villages, it has been possible to reduce the number of proposed Disposal Works to 4, situated at Hemingford Abbots, Needingworth, Oldhurst and Somersham.

As a result, the opportunity has been taken to introduce new plant and equipment to reduce and, indeed in some cases, entirely replace hand labour by machinery.

As a general principle, it is considered that the solution to the problem of attracting suitable and intelligent sewage maintenance labour to do what is fundamentally a quite unattractive and, indeed, a distasteful job, will depend more and more on the ability to reduce and ultimately eliminate these aspects of the work.

As a corollary, it will be very difficult now to replace the two employees, one past retiring age, still engaged on the emptying of the remaining Pail Lavatories in the District.



## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The river Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Authority. It is the principal amenity in the district, attracting, as it does, more and more people to its banks, as anglers, and on its waters, as holiday makers, in all types of river craft. The lower reaches from Holywell to Earith also provide excellent sport to wild fowlers in the winter.

The reconstruction of the locks from Earith to the Hemingfords gives easy access to all reaches within the district.

Marinas situated on these reaches are providing additional moorings for River Cruisers while Picnic Areas on the banks are crowded in the summer months when the weather is kind.

The Council co-operates in every possible way with the River Authority and Local Organisations to highlight the inherent danger to life to both young and the not so young, that is not readily appreciated by those who are unaware how swiftly and easily tragedies can occur in its quiet waters.

Vandals continue to destroy warning notices, and life saving apparatus — the river continues to take its toll.

As reported in 1969, the Council raised a formal objection to the River Authorities proposed Navigational Byelaws, which included provisions for the Registration of all craft using the River.

While generally agreeing that there was a need for the registration of powered craft, it considered that private owners of small boats, punts and canoes should not be required to register.

On appeal to the Minister, the Council's objection was not sustained. The charge for small boats such as punts and canoes being fixed at £1 per annum or 25p per month.

The rate of abstraction of water from the river and the watershed is licensed and controlled by the River Authority. The Great Ouse Water Authority is the latest water undertaking to tap these resources by an intake at Offord to Grafham Water, a reservoir of some 13,700

million gallon capacity. Abstraction here is authorised at a rate not exceeding 75% of the total flow, subject to no abstraction taking place with a total river flow of 30 million gallons per day, or less, and to a maximum rate of abstraction of 100 million gallons per day.

The demand for water for domestic, industrial and irrigational purposes continues to increase, and it now seems possible that even the proposed new intake for Grafham Water at Brownshill Staunch, Earith as detailed in last year's report, will shortly be followed by other proposals that could result in further abstractions in the next decade.

As the quantity of water abstracted increases, more concern is being expressed at the quality of the water in the Great Ouse Basin; the Ministry has set up a Committee to study and report on water quality problems in the Basin, and a Working Party has been appointed to report in detail on the chemical criteria for water quality, together with a forecast of the probable quality of the water in the River Ouse in the years 1980 and 2000.

The City of Milton Keynes will soon be contributing its quota of sewage effluent to the river, and the River Authority is maintaining very close liaison with the City Development Corporation to establish biological surveys and reach agreement on effluent standards.

The danger of a further possible deterioration in the quality of the river water by the establishment of a large airport in the upper reaches of the Ouse has now disappeared with the Government's decision to build it at Foulness.

### **Awarded Watercourses**

The Council is responsible for the cleansing and maintenance of a number of streams and awarded watercourses in the district, the necessary work being carried out by hand labour for the small brooks and by machines for the major watercourses. Some of those are still heavily polluted with sewage and will remain so until the village main drainage schemes are completed.



# MAINTENANCE OF AWARDED WATERCOURSES AND SEWER DITCHES

## Summary of Completed Works 1970

PARISH Awarded	DESCRIPTION	CHAINS	REMARKS
Hemingford Grey	E5	65.0	Hand
Colne	N13	74.0	"
Colne	P14	59.0	"
Holywell-cum- Needingworth	Parsons Drove	75.0	Machine
" "	Heath Drain	163.0	Hand
" "	Moore's Brook, No. 5	120	"
Fenstanton	Hilton Boundary to West End	59.0	"
"	Lake Brook	69.0	"
"	Conington Road, No. 3	50.0	"
Bluntisham	No. 5	26.0	"
"	No. 7	14.0	"
"	Heath Road,		( 18 Hand
Colne	Wadsby's Folly	50.0	( 24 Machine
Hemingford Abbots	R16	42.0	Hand
Bluntisham	No. 3	100.0	"
Colne	J9	50.5	"
Holywell-cum- Needingworth	L11	50.0	( 65 Machine
"	No. 5	15.0	( 60 Hand
Hemingford Grey	No. 3	60.0	Hand

## SEWER DITCHES

Colne	S17	27.0	Hand
Hemingford Grey	No. 4	98.0	"
Earith	Near New Playing Field	5.0	Piped
Colne	Tidley Cross	6.5	"
Pidley	Drag Lane	19.0	Hand
Hemingford Abbots	O.S. 96	14.0	Machine
Somersham	O.S. 148	5.0	"
Warboys	5 Lengths Sewer Ditches	115.0	Hand
	New Ditch North,		Machine
	High Street	17.0	
Woodhurst		13.0	"

1,596.0

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **(a) Night-Soil Collection**

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out throughout the district by means of 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments.

The areas of land available for disposal are very limited, and it remains a difficult problem, only partially solved by stop gap methods. Unfortunately, it was not possible to utilise the tanks constructed at Oldhurst Sewage Disposal Works for the treatment of this waste as the Disc Filter Plant to deal with Sludge Treatment had not been installed at the works by the end of the year.

### **(b) Cesspool Emptying**

The same vehicles are used for this service and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of visits to empty cesspools and septic tanks during the year was 1,365.

The total volume of raw sewage and sludge removed and disposed of by means of the two tankers during the year amounted to some two million, five hundred thousand gallons (2,500,000 gallons).

The charge for this service to householders, not on the line of a public sewer, is £1 - 25 for the first load and 50p for every additional load. The charge was fixed by the Council in 1949. The charge for the service to houses within 100 ft. of the new foul sewers, and which could be connected thereto, was fixed at £5 per visit in 1966 to encourage householders to take advantage of the new main drainage schemes as they are completed in each village.

The development proceeding in these villages without main drainage schemes has offset the reduction in the service in those villages where drainage schemes are in operation.

The service is adequate, but the difficulty lies, not in the emptying, but the disposal, of large volumes of sludge that no farmers want, and few can be persuaded to take.



It was necessary to remove and dispose of an additional 42,000 gallons of raw sludge from the Oldhurst Sewage Disposal Works because the Disc Filter Plant, designed to dewater the sludge, had not been installed by the end of the year.

It is interesting to record that there has been no lessening of the need for this service as is shown by the number of visits made to empty septic tanks and cesspools in the last 5 years:-

1965 — 1,243	1968 — 1,433
1966 — 1,230	1969 — 1,239
1967 — 1,245	1970 — 1,365

### (c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Further progress was made in the substitution of a Sack Collection scheme throughout the District, as fully reported in 1969; it is anticipated that this service will be in operation throughout the District by 1972.

The refuse is collected by means of three 35 cubic yard compression type vehicles fitted with hydraulic rams. Each vehicle being manned by three driver loaders.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out Gravel Pits at Somersham and Hemingford Grey. The former tip only being utilised in an emergency. The refuse is spread and levelled by a bulldozer but there is no earth cover available to seal the tips.

The Council have a contract with a Pest Control Company for the regular baiting of the tips to control rats. Insects are controlled by sprays and powders operated by direct labour.

## CIVIC AMENITIES

The two refuse tips are available for Ratepayers in the district to dispose of unwanted vehicles and bulky refuse. The Council has a contract with a local firm for the collection and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles at the Council's tips.

Following a report by the Department the Council decided to purchase a Land Rover and large capacity trailer to assist those householders who were unable to move their bulky refuse. This service is run in

conjunction with the service provided for the summer maintenance of open spaces and play areas on Housing Estates.

In practice this ensures that full use is made of vehicles and labour through both the summer and winter months. That there is a growing need for the collection of bulky refuse is apparent by the accumulations of household junk that is dumped indiscriminately in the district, some blatantly — some less conspicuously.

There is also a substantial increase in the amount of garden refuse mixed in with the dumped junk, which doubtless arises from the erection of substantial housing estates in both urban and rural communities with high density development.

### **Litter Receptacles**

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacle to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake the work.

## **SWIMMING POOLS**

The Swimming Pool at Saint Ivo School, Saint Ives, was officially opened on 4th September by Mr. Eldon Griffiths, M.P., Joint Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

This was a joint project of the County, Borough and Rural District Councils to provide an enclosed and heated pool, 82 ft. 6 in. long — 30 ft. wide for the use of the pupils and the general public at an approximate cost of £100,000.

Small pools have been provided at some village schools by Parent Teacher Associations. All the pools are equipped with filtration and chlorination plant and are periodically inspected by the Department.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

### (a) Housing Inspections

Under Public Health and Housing Acts . . . . .	249
Re-Inspections . . . . .	46
Number of Preliminary Notices served . . . . .	361
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with . . . . .	343
Number of Statutory Notices served . . . . .	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with . . . . .	—

### (b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937 – 1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	6	3	3	Nil
2. Section 7	59	51	21	Nil
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
Total	65	54	24	Nil
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:

Number of cases in which defects were:

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	0	0	0
Over-crowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	3	3	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	19	19	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
Total	32	32	0	0	0
	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>



As can be seen by reference to the above table most infringements found on routine factory inspections are connected with the general condition of the sanitary conveniences. In other respects most premises appear quite satisfactory.

### (c) Inspections under Statutes

Moveable Dwellings . . . . .	68
Dumps, Tips . . . . .	223
Public Cleansing . . . . .	265
Offensive Trades . . . . .	6
Butchers' Premises . . . . .	36
Shops and Offices . . . . .	131
Pumps, Wells . . . . .	19
Drains . . . . .	504
General Public Health . . . . .	382
Swimming Pools . . . . .	13
Preserved Foods, etc. . . . .	76
Petroleum Stores, etc. . . . .	101
Infectious Diseases . . . . .	42
Ice Cream . . . . .	23
Disinfestations . . . . .	218
Food Regulations . . . . .	112
Sewage Works . . . . .	574
Improvement Grants . . . . .	290
Drainage Schemes . . . . .	440
Conversion Grants . . . . .	182
Miscellaneous . . . . .	20
Housing Sites . . . . .	495
Public Cleansing . . . . .	265
	<hr/>
Total	4,294
	<hr/>

In connection with the inspections itemised above, 361 Informal Notices were served, and whilst on no occasion was it found necessary to resort to legal proceedings some of the complaints required a great deal of tact and patience to bring about satisfactory results.

### CARAVAN SITES

No discontinuance orders were made by the County Council in respect of planning permission, therefore, the total number of licensed sites in the district is now 46. Of these only 3 sites have more than 20 residential caravans, whilst 27 sites contain only one.

## RODENT CONTROL

A contract with Ratsouris Ltd. for the control of infestation of rats and mice in all houses in the district continued during the year. This contract also covers the Council's refuse tips, but rodent control in sewers is undertaken by the direct labour staff. The Council consider that the occupiers of Agricultural holdings could make similar arrangements with commercial Pest Control firms if they so desired. This firm at present under contract, also deal with wasps' nests at residential premises.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows:-

### Classification of Premises

Classification	Number of Premises registered	Number of employees
Offices	18	53
Shops (Retail)	38	69
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	3	4
Catering Establishments	4	10
Canteens (included in above)	0	4
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	63	140
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total Males	61
	Total Females	79

Two premises were registered with the Council during the year, and one office forming part of a large agricultural concern was closed down, bringing the total to 63. In connection with these premises, informal notices were served on the respective occupiers outlining the infringements found when inspections effecting registration were made. Routine inspections of these, and all other registered premises will be made in order to ensure that they are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.



Two accidents were notified during the year. In one case an employee strained his back, lifting a one hundred weight sack of salt to pour it into a water softening plant; why he did not shovel the salt in, remains a mystery. The other accident occurred in a warehouse, when the driver of a fork lift truck selected first instead of reverse gear and crushed the man who had just loaded the pallett against a partition wall, which fortunately gave way on impact, hence the injuries, whilst serious, were not fatal and he soon resumed work.

## **ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS**

One further licence was approved during the year for boarding 36 cats. This establishment, together with those existing, provide accommodation in the district for 122 dogs and 75 cats. Enforcement of infringements of the respective licensing conditions is made comparatively easy because of the fact that such licences are renewable annually.

## **HOUSING**

### **SLUM CLEARANCE**

At the end of the year the Council had represented 294 houses as unfit for human habitation since 1952; an average of approximately 16 per year. The records show that 145 were demolished, 60 were made fit, 51 are vacant, 3 were converted for other purposes and 35 are still occupied. The latter does not mean that 35 families are currently waiting to be rehoused, because many of them are quite content to live their lives out in their present accommodation; and undertakings have been made in respect of such houses, not to re-let when they become vacant. Of the vacant houses many are part of small terraces and semis and further action cannot be taken until the adjoining houses are also vacated.

### **IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

The number of improvement grant applications this year was 50, of which 3 were withdrawn, the remainder being approved.

Standard Grants amounting to £4,813 were made in respect of 22 houses, and Discretionary Grants amounting to £15,767 were made in respect of 25 houses,



averages of approximately £219 and £631 respectively.

In all, the Council has approved grants totalling £129,600.

It is anticipated that the radical revision of the conditions that formally had to be observed by applicants for grants, together with the increases in the amounts and scope of the grants, will act as a further stimulus to owners of sub-standard houses.

Owners of houses let as controlled tenancies are given the long needed financial incentive to have improvements carried out by the provisions of the 1969 Act relating to 'regulation' of such tenancies and consequent assessment of fair rents following issue of qualification certificates by the Council. The procedure is workable and must certainly result in the standard of fitness of such houses being raised, particularly in view of the provision enabling owners to apply for periodical re-assessment of 'fair rents' to keep in step with inflation.

### **Water Closet Conversion Grants**

There were no grants approved in respect of replacement of pail closets by water closets, although a great number are pending on the completion of the Warboys Main Drainage Scheme.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

The concept of the 'village stores' is gradually changing and in the rapidly developing villages modern self-service stores are appearing that are provided with up-to-date equipment and adequate storage rooms.

The work by the Department during the year on the subject of Food Hygiene has been mainly of an instructive and educational character. No final solution to the problem of stock rotation of perishable foods is possible until all manufacturers of these products print the day of production on their packages. Meanwhile the Department continues to stress the importance of stock rotation to shopkeepers to prevent the sale of unsound food. The General Public, now more aware of the activities of the Department in relation to the soundness of any type of food for human consumption do not hesitate to contact us. As is natural, the majority of

such complaints continue to be made at weekends, when the bulk of the weekly shopping is done.

## MILK SUPPLY

The bulk of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, one of which has installed photo-electrical scanning equipment in its new bottling plant to detect and reject any bottles that fail to come up to the standard of cleanliness required or show other abnormalities. This action has certainly reduced the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of dirty milk bottles or bottles containing foreign bodies.

## ICE CREAM

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district; practically all the retailers insure against power failures and do not hesitate to request the Department to inspect their stock after electricity failures.

Over the years, ice cream has developed into a sophisticated food enjoyed by young and old alike. All new premises registered by the Council during the year continued the normal trend of selling prepacked brands manufactured and distributed by 'national' firms.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area. All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets, and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangements with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities, the Department assist in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat, fruit and other foods were condemned during the year.

## **FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS**

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers . . . . .	4
Butchers . . . . .	8
Cafés and Canteens . . .	11
Confectioners . . . . .	2
Fish Shops . . . . .	4
General Stores . . . . .	54
Greengrocers . . . . .	5
Licensed Premises . . . .	31

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

## **ADULTERATION**

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could with advantage, be taken by the Department.







